

Support Joint Resolutions of Disapproval Against Sales of Bombs and Bulldozers to Israel

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I. Background

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues amid continued violations of the 10 October 2025 [ceasefire agreement](#) and severe restrictions on humanitarian aid. More than [70,000 Palestinians](#) have been killed in Israel's military campaign, with additional [deaths from starvation](#) and disease reported. At the same time, violence and displacement in the West Bank have [intensified](#), with increased Israeli military operations, settler violence, and movement restrictions raising alarm over worsening humanitarian conditions and civilian protection risks.

In parallel, a [broader regional conflict](#) has escalated involving Israel, the U.S., and Iran. In recent weeks, Israel and the U.S. have carried out joint offensive strikes on thousands of targets in Iran, killing over [1,400 civilians](#) and destroying critical [civilian infrastructure](#). Threats made by both the U.S. and Israel about continued targeting of critical infrastructure raise concerns about [violations](#) of international humanitarian law and increased civilian harm. Further, the [UN warns](#) of a deepening humanitarian crisis as up to 3.2 million people in Iran have been displaced due to the war. The conflict has extended to Lebanon, where Israel launched a major military offensive in the south following escalation with Iran-aligned forces. Israeli airstrikes and ground operations in March 2026 have killed over [1,000 people](#) and displaced more than one million civilians in Lebanon. These operations have included strikes on civilian infrastructure and large-scale displacement as Israel moves to establish a "[security zone](#)".

Amidst this escalating regional conflict, in March 2026 the Trump administration [notified lawmakers](#) of its intention to declare an emergency and bypass congressional review of over \$658 million in offensive weaponry, including 22,000 bombs, for transfer to Israel. Despite mounting civilian harm concerns across Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, and Iran, the administration continues to advance weapons transfers [without following](#) standard procedures that would allow for congressional review. These transfers raise serious concerns under U.S. law, including the Foreign Assistance Act (sections [620I](#) and [502B](#)), which prohibit security assistance to governments that restrict the delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid or engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

Congress retains oversight authority over major arms sales. However, the administration has again moved forward with [expedited weapons transfers](#), including invoking procedures that limit Congress's ability to review and block these sales. Representative Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) spoke to this bypassing of Congressional review during a [17 March 2026 HFAC hearing on arms sale reform](#), raising alarm over the "administration's systematic contempt for congressional oversight" and cautioning that arms sales without transparency or accountability "undermine the very alliances and institutions that they are meant to strengthen."

II. Joint Resolutions of Disapproval and Major Arms Sales Notified to Congress

In March 2026, Senator Bernie Sanders [introduced](#) **three Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs)** to block the nearly **\$658.8 million** in proposed U.S. bomb sales to Israel. The upcoming vote will also consider a JRD to block a [previously disclosed sale](#) from February 2025 of Caterpillar D9 Bulldozers and related equipment for an estimated cost of **\$295 million**.

The proposed sales include:

- **S.J. Res. 138: \$151.8 million** for 12,000 **1,000-pound bombs**
- **S. J. Res. 137: \$209 million** for 10,000 **500-pound bombs**
- **S.J. Res. 136: \$298 million** for 5,000 items related to **250-pound small-diameter bombs**
- **S. J. Res. 32: \$295 million** for **Caterpillar D9 Bulldozers** and defense services

[S. J. Res. 138](#) would oppose the sale of 12,000 BLU-110A/B general purpose, 1,000-pound bombs and associated services.

- **BLU-110 (MK-83) 1,000-pound bombs are general purpose bombs.** Their powerful blast and fragmentation can destroy large structures and cause lethal injuries across a wide area, posing a high risk of civilian harm when used in densely populated environments.
- Regarding a January 10, 2024 bombing, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [concluded](#) “It appears that an MK 83 munition was used in the 10 January airstrike in front of Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al Balah, Middle Gaza. At least 12 people were killed, including a journalist, and several IDPs. 35 people were injured.”
- UN investigators [concluded](#) that on January 18, 2024, the Israeli military used a GBU-32 (MK-83) in an attack on a residential compound housing an International Rescue Committee Emergency Medical Team and members of Medical Aid for Palestinians’ local team and their family members in Al Mawasi.
- A [Bellingcat investigation](#) published March 3, 2026 identified footage of US-made MK-83s on Israeli planes in preparation for strikes in Iran.
- Weapons identification expert Trevor Ball identified in a [video](#) posted March 5, 2026 an unexploded MK-83 1,000-pound bomb or MK-84 2,000-pound bomb reportedly found at a home in Tehran, Iran. The bomb could have been used by US or Israeli forces.
- On March 12, 2026, a Reuters photo captured a projectile falling from the sky during an Israeli strike in Beirut’s Bachoura neighborhood. Weapons identification expert Trevor Ball [identified](#) the munition as an MK-83 or MK-84 munition.

[S. J. Res. 137](#) would oppose the sale of ten thousand (10,000) BLU-111 500-pound general purpose bombs and related support.

- **BLU-111 (MK-82) 500-pound bombs** are general purpose bombs. Within a 31m radius, they cause the collapse of most buildings, severely damage heavily built concrete structures, and kill most people.
- The Israeli military has used 500-pound bombs to strike civilian infrastructure and kill civilians. On October 6, 2024, an Israeli strike on a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in

central Gaza killed at least 26, according to [Al Jazeera](#). Based on remnants of a JDAM at the scene and the size of the blast, munitions expert Trevor Ball [estimated](#) that either an MK-82 or 500-lb MPR 500 was used.

- On October 14, 2024, an Israeli strike in Lebanon destroyed a building in Aitou, Lebanon killing 23 civilians. [Amnesty International](#) concluded that the attack should be investigated as a war crime and found that the munition used may have been an MK-82 bomb.
- On July 1, 2025, the Israeli military struck a crowded beachfront cafe in Gaza City, killing at least 24 Palestinians. [The Guardian](#) concluded that an MK-82 bomb was used.

[S. J. Res. 136](#) would oppose the licensing of defense articles and services, including five thousand (5,000) defense articles relating to the Small Diameter Bomb Weapon Systems.

- GBU-39 small-diameter bombs are 250-pound air-launched guided munitions. GBU-39 bombs [can injure or kill](#) people in open areas within 1,122 ft in any direction.
- GBU-39 bombs have become a “[weapon of choice](#)” for the Israeli military in Gaza, where they have killed civilians in numerous attacks during the war.
- According to [Amnesty International](#), on January 9, 2024, a strike on a 5-story family home in Tal Al-Sultan, Gaza, conducted with a GBU-39 bomb, killed 18 civilians, including 10 children.
- On May 13, 2024, a strike on a UN school and family home in Nuseirat killed ‘dozens,’ reported the [New York Times](#). Fragments of GBU-39 bombs were found at the scene, according to munitions expert [Trevor Ball](#).
- On May 26, 2024, an Israeli strike on a camp for displaced people near Rafah ignited a [fire](#) that killed 45 people and wounded more than 240. The [New York Times](#) reported that the strike was conducted using a U.S.-made GBU-39 bomb.
- On 6 June 2024, two GBU-39 bombs were used in a [strike](#) on an UNRWA school where civilians were sheltering in the Nuseirat refugee camp. At least 33 people were [killed](#).
- On July 10, 2024, a [strike](#) on a school complex that was housing displaced people near Khan Younis in southern Gaza killed at least 27 people and injured 53. A remnant of a US-made GBU-39 is clearly visible in a video filmed in the strike’s aftermath, according to [CNN](#).
- On August 10, 2024, an Israeli strike on a school and mosque in al-Daraj killed at least 93, according to [CNN](#). Remains of a GBU-39 bomb were identified from videos of the scene.
- On November 14, 2024, an Israeli [strike](#) on the Salah al-Din School killed four civilians, including two children, 13-year-old Mahmoud Ibrahim Mahmoud Dababsh and nine or 11-year-old Anas Ahmed Abdul Rahman al-Mashharawi, per the civilian harm monitor Airwars. A GBU-39 series bomb [was found](#) at the scene.
- On January 7, 2026, an Israeli [strike](#) on an apartment block in the Al Tuffah neighborhood of northern Gaza killed 2 people and violated the ceasefire agreement. At least three US-made GBU-39 Small Diameter Bombs, including one that failed to explode, were found on the scene.

[S. J. Res. 32](#) would oppose the sale of D9R and D9T Caterpillar bulldozers and associated parts and services.

- The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) [notified Congress](#) of this potential sale in February 2025. Delivery is scheduled to begin in 2027.
- D9R and D9T Caterpillar bulldozers [have been used](#) by Israel as armored combat bulldozers for route clearance and force protection, but also in operations that involve large-scale demolition

of homes, roads, civilian infrastructure, and terrain reshaping in Gaza, the West Bank, and southern Lebanon.

- Caterpillar bulldozers have been heavily used by Israel inside of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, including leading the [front lines](#) of assault columns entering Gaza in October 2023.
- “[According](#) to a January 2025 [report](#) by the OCHA, Israel's war in Gaza has destroyed or damaged 92% of housing units in the territory...Israel has also deployed large numbers of combat engineering units equipped with Caterpillar D9 bulldozers to help clear entire neighborhoods.”
- In September 2024 Israeli bulldozers tore up residential areas in Tulkaram and Jenin in the West Bank, resulting in extensive destruction documented by the [New York Times](#). Bulldozers continue to be relied on by Israel for the continued destruction of homes in the West Bank, a concern heightened by the [increased violence](#) and use of force taking place in 2026. In February 2026, the Jerusalem Legal Aid Center (JLAC) [reported](#) that Israel had [demolished](#) 300 Palestinian properties in the West Bank in the first month and a half of 2026.
- In 2026, Israeli officials have [recently vowed](#) to do in southern Lebanon what was done in Gaza, raising alarm about further destruction, displacement of civilians, and civilian harm.